## **CLAIMS**

1. A method to be implemented in a computer system comprising a processor and a memory, the method for managing a run queue comprising a first plurality of threads sorted with respect to one another based on thread priority, the method comprising:

in a deterministic amount of time, associating a second plurality of threads that is priority sorted with the run queue in a manner that maintains a priority based scheduling semantic of the run queue.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second plurality of threads comprises a root thread, and wherein associating the second plurality of threads with the run queue further comprises:

inserting only the root thread into the run queue.

**3.** A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the associating the second plurality of threads with the run queue further comprises:

inserting each thread in the second plurality of threads into the run queue independent of any additional other queue access.

**4.** A method as recited in claim 1, wherein associating the second plurality of threads with the run queue further comprises:

inserting only a root thread of the second plurality into the run queue to represent the second plurality of nodes.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein associating the second plurality of threads with the run queue further comprises:

inserting only a root thread of the second plurality into the run queue; and wherein the method further comprises:

removing the root thread from the run queue; and

responsive to removing the root thread, inserting a next thread of the second plurality into the run queue such that the priority based scheduling semantic of the run queue is preserved.

**6.** A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

inserting a root thread of the second plurality into the run queue;
removing the root thread from the run queue for execution; and
responsive to removing the root thread and independent of any additional
other queue access, inserting a next thread of the second plurality of threads into
the run queue.

7. One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions to perform a method as recited in claim 1.

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**8.** A system for managing a run queue, the run queue comprising a first plurality of threads, each thread in the first plurality having a respective priority, the first plurality being sorted such that a thread having a high priority is removed from the run queue before a thread having a lower priority, the system comprising:

a memory for storing the run queue and computer-executable instructions;

a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the processor being configured to execute the computer-executable instructions for:

in a deterministic amount of time, associating the second plurality of threads that is priority sorted with the run queue, the associating maintaining a priority based scheduling semantic of the run queue.

- **9.** A system as recited in claim 8, wherein associating the second plurality with the run queue is performed independent of more than a single other queue access.
- 10. A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the second plurality comprises a root thread operatively coupled to one or more other threads of the second plurality, each of the one or more other threads having a respective priority that is a lower priority or an equal priority as compared to a priority of the root node.
- 11. A system as recited in claim 8, wherein associating the second plurality of threads with the run queue further comprises:

inserting only a root thread of the second plurality into the run queue.

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12. A system as recited in claim 8, wherein associating the second plurality of threads with the run queue further comprises:

inserting only a root thread of the second plurality into the run queue to represent the second plurality of threads.

**13.** A system as recited in claim 8:

wherein the first plurality of threads is a first linked list data structure;

wherein the second plurality of threads is a second linked list data structure comprising a root node that is operatively coupled to one or more other threads in the second plurality; and

wherein the single insert operation is an operation comprising inserting the root node into a position in the first linked list data structure.

14. A system as recited in claim 8, wherein associating the second plurality of threads with the run queue further comprises:

inserting only a root thread of the second plurality into the run queue; and wherein the method further comprises:

removing the root thread from the run queue; and

responsive to removing the root thread, inserting a next thread of the second plurality into the run queue such that a priority based scheduling semantic of the run queue is preserved.

15. A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the processor is further configured to execute computer program instructions for:

inserting a root thread of the second plurality into the run queue;

removing the root thread from the run queue for execution; and responsive to removing the root thread and independent of any additional other queue access, inserting a next thread of the second plurality into the run queue.

16. A computer-readable storage medium comprising computerexecutable instructions to manage a run queue sorted with to one another based on thread priority, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

in a deterministic amount of time that is independent of the number of threads in a second plurality of threads that is priority sorted, associating the second plurality of threads with the run queue in a manner that maintains a priority based scheduling semantic of the run queue.

17. A computer-readable storage medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the second plurality of threads comprises a root thread that is operatively coupled to one or more other threads of the second plurality, and wherein the instructions for associating further comprise:

inserting only the root thread into the first plurality of threads to represent the second plurality of threads.

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18. A computer-readable storage medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the first plurality of threads is a first linked list data structure, the second plurality of threads is a second linked list data structure comprising a root node that is operatively coupled to one or more other threads in the second plurality, and the deterministic amount of time is a result of a single insert operation to insert the root node into the first linked list data structure.

19. A computer-readable storage medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the instructions for associating further comprise:

inserting only a root thread of the second plurality of threads into the first plurality of threads;

and wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise instructions for:

removing the root thread from the run queue; and

responsive to removing the root thread, inserting a next thread of the second plurality into the first plurality in a manner that maintains a priority based scheduling semantic of the run queue .

- 20. A computer-readable storage medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the acts for inserting the next thread are performed independent of an other queue.
- 21. A computer-readable storage medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the instructions for associating further comprise instructions for:

inserting a root thread of the second plurality into the first plurality;

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removing the root thread from the first plurality for execution; and

responsive to removing the root thread, inserting a next thread of the second plurality into the first plurality independent of any additional access to another different queue.

22. A computer comprising a processor operatively coupled to a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 16, the processor configured to execute the computer-executable instructions.

## 23. A run queue data structure comprising:

- a first dimension data field comprising a first plurality of threads sorted with respect to thread priority; and
- a second dimension data field comprising a second plurality of threads sorted based on thread priority, the second plurality of threads comprising a root thread and one or more other threads.
- 24. A computer-readable medium comprising a run queue data structure as recited in claim 23.

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